

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

School Committee Meeting

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 25, 2008

Open Session

Mr. Carcieri called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. School Committee Members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent, Mr. Edward Daft, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer. Motion by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mr. Faria to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of discussing:

- 1. Negotiations and collective bargaining with the teachers, teacher assistants, secretaries, principals, and custodians pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2); and**
- 2. Litigation pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2), including matters relating to EPSC v. EPEA, EPSC v. City EP, and Special Education Litigation.**

Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

The School Committee returned to Public Session at 7:00PM. Motion by Mrs. Barbosa to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

Report Executive Session Votes

Mr. Daniel Kinder, Esq. reported the following votes taken in Executive Session:

Motion to authorize Little, Medeiros, Kinder, Bulman and Whitney to proceed with suit against Charles Rocha for defalcations and conversion of equipment and money while employed as Director of the Vocational School. Motion by Mrs. Barbosa to approve, seconded by Mr. Santos. School Committee approved unanimously by roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

Motion to redact legally privileged attorney-client communications from the minutes of the December 30, 2008 Executive Session and to unseal the redacted minutes reflecting the votes taken, and related discussion, at that meeting, while keeping privileged communications sealed.

A motion was made by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mr. Faria. School

Committee approved unanimously by roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence
Mr. Barham reported the following:

Family Medical Leave (13 Weeks)

Jennifer McGovern Elementary (.5) Grade 3

Approx. 10/21/09

Michelle Bianco Special Education

September 8, 2009

Leave of Absence

Christopher Dante English Teacher

2009-2010 School Year

In response to a request from Mr. Faria, Dr. Cirillo advised that a

break-in and vandalism occurred over the weekend at Whiteknact School. There was a problem with the alarm which did not call out due to a blown fuse. This problem has been rectified, the alarm re-tested, our insurance carrier has been notified, and repairs are being done at the school.

Residency questions ¡V Parents were asked to re-register students at the high school; a Connect-Ed message was sent by the Principal asking for parents to provide proof of residency; dates and times have been scheduled through the end of September, providing additional opportunities for parents to comply with the request.

Construction of classrooms for the Bradley program necessitated an update of the fire alarm system at Silver Spring School; the approximate \$45,000 cost was bid out and work will be finished in time for school opening. Dr. Cirillo extended an invitation to attend an open house on Friday at 9:00AM.

Consent Agenda

Personnel Appointments ¡V Mr. Barham presented the following items:

Edward Donoghue Finance Director

Leslie MacDonald Speech Pathologist ¡V EPHS/Whiteknact

Lori Rush Speech Pathologist ¡V Meadowcrest (1 Yr)

Tony Vieira Head Coach ¡V Boys Soccer, EPHS

Motion: Mrs. Barbosa/Seconded: Mr. Faria

Discussion: Mr. Faria commented that although he is on board with the restructuring plan, he believes the position of Finance Director should have been consolidated with the city.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

2009-2010 Budget Presentation ¡V Dr. Cirillo presented a report to the School Committee. Highlights as follows:

„X FY 10 Revenue Projection ¡V City contribution increased 3.5% - minimum required to meet operational costs and begin deficit elimination

„X State Housing Aid dropped \$311,550 ¡V for roofs at Oldham and Hennessey Schools, working on a new plan for Board of Regents. Information will be presented at the next School Committee by RIDE regarding new opportunity.

„X Medicaid reimbursements will decrease according to sources ¡V Compu-Claim recommends budget increase of \$1,450,000

„X Tuition revenue is increasing by \$1.2 million due to IDEA Part B

„X Sale of Grove Avenue building ¡V negotiations are underway ¡V assessed at \$500,000; deficit reduction plan - \$350,000 first year

Expenditure Projections

„X Salaries decrease 2.37% - \$977,516 (mostly early retirements, replaced with lower step teachers)

„X Decrease of almost \$2.8 million over proposed FY09 budget

„X Tuitions decrease 9.9% due to re-entry of students with Bradley Partnership

„X Nursing/Therapy/Testing increases 44.47%; additional IEP's that require 1:1 nursing (agency nurses)

„X Life insurance decreases \$25,000 ÷ 11.75% - switching from dividend policy to non-dividend

„X Technology increases \$275,000 ÷ 128.1%- necessary to continue HP Lease/Purchase agreement, add software and licenses, and smart boards and other educational tools to classrooms ÷ beginning of the cycle to get technology up to snuff for students to have the best technology available to them

„X Maintenance increases \$531,000 ÷ 183.42% - will partially address infrastructure deficiencies in our schools to keep City and State inspectors from shutting our schools

„X Athletics/extra-curricular increases \$100,000 ÷ 215.27% - \$100,000 was arbitrarily cut in FY09; this restores that cut

„X Textbooks & Instructional Supplies increases \$526,962 ÷ 210.78%- has been shortchanged every year for the past decade; will replenish books by department which are an essential need for effective education

„X Non-instructional supplies increase \$330,589 ÷ 146.93% - have been in short supply in recent years; we have been behind in payments and are on a COD basis with many vendors

Questions and Comments:

Mr. Faria asked about full day Kindergarten; Dr. Cirillo advised that six schools will have full day Kindergarten this year.

Mrs. Abatecola asked how much was spent on line items to date; Mr. Barham responded that monthly reports provide that information; 7/31/09 report indicated approximately 75% expended.

Mr. Faria asked about the HP lease amount; Dr. Cirillo responded only two years. Mr. Barham advised that 20 Smart Boards have been purchased for the district; we need to keep up with licensing, etc.

Mr. Faria asked how much of the funds allotted for maintenance will be used toward NEASC recommendations for improvements/repairs at the high school. Dr. Cirillo advised that the funds are for district wide projects to keep up with maintenance of buildings/inspections.

Mr. Santos asked about the property tax figure which represents an increase in our allotment. Mr. Barham advised that for the deficit reduction plan to work, we are committed to 2% and 1% for the deficit elimination, staying within the 3.5% as the charter mandates. This will be the first large amount of money toward the deficit.

Mrs. Barbosa commented that it is good to see money actually going

to education.

Mr. Santos felt we are finally moving in the direction of maintaining the integrity of our schools and providing activities for kids through sports program.

Dr. Cirillo finished by saying that the bottom line is that East Providence Schools will have a balanced budget and a deficit reduction plan in place.

Mr. Carcieri commented to keep up the good work.

Mr. Faria stated that the 2.96% increase includes the deficit reduction plan (1.15% to the deficit).

This concluded the first passage of the budget; second passage will take place at the School Committee meeting on September 8, 2009.

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbosa to adjourn at 7:45PM, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee